



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson
Robert M. Garvin, Commissioner
Mark Meyer, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
RECEIVED: 04/28/06, 8:19:49 AM

April 27, 2006

Linda Lerch
Linda Stouffer
6800 County Hwy I
Waunakee, WI 53597

Re: Application of American Transmission Company, as an Electric
Public Utility, to Construct a New 138 kV Line From the North
Madison Substation to the Huiskamp Substation in the Towns of
Vienna and Westport, Dane County, WI

137-CE-139

Dear Ms. Lerch and Ms. Stouffer:

Chairperson Ebert received a letter from Senator Russell D. Feingold on your behalf regarding your concerns about the proposed construction of a 138 kV transmission line past your farmette. Once a case begins, our Commissioners cannot have any contact with the utility or other persons interested in the case. Therefore, I was asked to review your concerns and respond.

The Commission has followed the issue of the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) on human health for 30 years. The Commission monitors the current studies and research regarding this issue and updates the information it provides to the public annually. For construction cases, such as the one you are interested in, the Commission requires applicants to provide information on the magnetic fields for different transmission line configurations and to estimate future magnetic fields based on a Commission-established protocol. These estimates are provided at 25 to 50 foot increments, starting from under the proposed transmission structure. Applicants are also required to provide information on houses and other types of buildings at these same intervals. The Commission checks the accuracy of these estimates and considers this information when deciding on proposed transmission line routes and structure designs.

I understand that Scot Cullen, Chief Engineer of the Gas and Energy Division, and Steve Fix, the environmental analyst assigned to review this project, visited your property on April 13, 2006 to assess the situation. If the route passing your property were chosen, there appear to be at least two options that would reduce any effect of the transmission line magnetic fields on your property. These include placing the proposed transmission line on the opposite side of the road from your house, and using a structure design that places the three conductors on the side of the structure that faces away from your house. Both would increase the distance between your house and the proposed transmission line.

Linda Lerch
Linda Stouffer
Docket 137-CE-139
Page 2

Another avenue that you may want to pursue is that the Commission requires utilities, upon customer request, to provide magnetic field measurements for people on their property, both inside and outside the house. I suggest that you contact your electric provider, Wisconsin Power and Light Company, to have measurements taken now. This would provide you with a baseline for comparison with any future measurements.

Finally, the Commission bases its decisions on the hearing record developed as part of the case. It is important for you to testify at the hearings about your concerns and the options that would reduce those concerns. The hearing dates have not yet been set. You will receive a Notice of Hearing once the dates are set, since you are a potentially affected property owner. I encourage you to attend and testify regarding your concerns.

I understand your concerns about changes in the environment near your property. Please feel free to call Scot Cullen at (608) 267-9229 or Steve Fix at (608) 267-9197 if you have any more questions or would like any further assistance.
Sincerely,

Robert Norcross

Robert Norcross
Administrator
Gas and Energy Division

cc: Senator Russell Feingold (Milwaukee office)
Scot Cullen, PSC
Steve Fix, PSC

RDN:jlt:L:\letter\VIPs\Norcross\2006\Lerch letter 4-27-06.doc